1	2	3
11.	Meeth Utpadak Chhote Shilotri Seva Sangh, Rai, Thane	Our association consists of Small Scale Salt Producers/ Manufacturers of Thane District in Maharashtra known as Meeth Utpadak Chhote Shilotri Seva Sangh, Rai. "We strongly object to the proposed insertion of Rule 44.1 in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955" to impose ban on sale of common Salt. UNICEF have motivated Health Dept. to advise Salt Officials to impose ban on common salt and to support iodization policy through industrial dept. only for the survival of Multinational Companies & Staff under Salt Department. It was surprised to hear an announcement made at the conference of Salt Manufacturers held in Five Star Hotel by the Chief of UNICEF Dr. Eric about application of ban prior to publication of notification, which again indicates that Government machinery have also become victim of UNICEF policy. Constitution gives fundamental rights to every citizen of India to carry out any legal activities/business or profession under the statute for his own & family's better livelihood. He cannot be deprived off by introducing any unconstitutional or unsocial statue, rules or amendments. The ban on common Salt is against the policy of our Dynamic Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh who is keenly interested in eradication of corruption.
12.	The Salt Manufacturers Welfare Association, MARRIPADU Srikakulam Dist. (A.P.)	This association is pleased to welcome GOVT. OF INDIA to make people of INDIA to consume IODIZED SALT compulsorily to get rid of OCITRY AND ITS ALLIED DISEASES CONSEQUENTLY.

Compensation for crop loss

*115. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an estimate has been made about the loss caused to the crops in the Northern States due to severe weather conditions in the region during the winter of 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Central assistance proposed for the affected States to compensate the farmers for the loss/damage of their crops?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The very low temperature during late December, 2005 and early January, 2006 has been reported to have affected some crops in some areas of Northern States. The State-wise details are as under:—

- **Punjab:** An area of 50,250 ha. under potato is reported to have been affected by frost.
- **Haryana:** About 50% area out of 7.0 lakh ha. under mustard and 30% area out of 1.47 lakh ha. under gram in the State is reported to have been affected by the cold wave and low temperature.
- **Rajasthan:** About 15.1% (6.783 lakh tonnes) losses to the estimated production of mustard crop is reported.
- **Madhya Pradesh:** An area of 7,840 ha. of different pulses and other crops has been affected due to cold wave and low temperature.

(c) Damage to crops due to cold wave and low temperature is not treated as natural calamity and does not qualify for compensation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). However, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is under implementation in 23 States and 2 UTs including Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Under the scheme, assistance is provided to insured farmers in case their yield falls short of specified threshold levels. The scheme is available for loanee and non loanee farmers. Farmers availing of crop loan are covered under NAIS.

"Immunization Weeks" in villages

*116. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would hold special immunization weeks to strengthen its ambitious routine immunization programme in the states having traditionally low coverage;